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REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

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* Documents E/CN.4/1998/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/1998/L.11 and addenda.

GE.98-12082 (E)

XXIII. INDIGENOUS ISSUES

1. The Commission considered agenda item 23 at its 18th to 21st meetings, on 26 and 27 March, and at its 38th and 39th meetings, on 9 April 1998. 1/

2. For the documents issued under agenda item 23, see annex IV to the present report. For a list of all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission and Chairman's statements, by agenda item, see annex V to the present report.

3. At the 18th meeting, on 26 March 1998, the Chairman-Rapporteur of the Working Group established in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995, Mr. José Urrutia, introduced the report of the Working Group (E/CN.4/1998/106 and Corr.1).

4. In the general debate on agenda item 23, statements 2/ were made by the following members of the Commission: Argentina (19th), Brazil (20th), Canada (19th), Chile (19th), Cuba (20th), Guatemala (20th), Peru (19th), Philippines (20th), Russian Federation (19th), Ukraine (19th).

5. The Commission heard statements by the observers for: Australia (20th), Bolivia (20th), Estonia (19th), New Zealand (19th), Spain (19th). The observer for Switzerland also made a statement (20th).

6. Statements were also made by the observers for the International Labour Organization (19th) and the World Health Organization (19th).

7. The Commission also heard statements by the following non-governmental organizations: American Association of Jurists (19th), Anti-Slavery International (19th), Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (19th), Franciscans International (19th), Indian Law Resource Centre (19th), Indian Movement Tupaj Amaru (19th), International Commission of Jurists (21st), International Educational Development, Inc. (19th), International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements (21st), International Indian Treaty Council (19th), International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples (21st), International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (19th), International Organization for the Development of Freedom of Education (20th), International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development (19th), International Peace Bureau (21st), International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (19th), Inuit Circumpolar Conference (19th), Lutheran World Federation (21st), Minority Rights Group (20th), Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples (20th), North-South XXI (21st), Pax Christi International (20th), Saami Council (20th), Service for Peace and Justice in

Latin America (21st), Transnational Radical Party (20th), World Alliance of Reformed Churches (21st), World Council of Churches (19th), World Federation for Mental Health (21st), World Wide Fund for Nature International (21st).

Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

8. At the 38th meeting, on 9 April 1998, the observer for New Zealand introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.22, sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Latvia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Andorra, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, France and the Philippines subsequently joined the sponsors.

9. In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications 3/ of the draft resolution.

10. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/13.

11. In view of the adoption of resolution 1998/13, the Commission took no action on draft decision 3 recommended by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for adoption by the Commission (see E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50, chap. I).

Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994

12. At the 38th meeting, on 9 April 1998, the representative of Canada introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.23, sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Guatemala, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Sweden and Switzerland. Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Estonia, Greece, the Russian Federation, Spain and the United States of America subsequently joined the sponsors.

13. In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications 3/ of the draft resolution.

14. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/14.

A permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system

15. At the 38th meeting, on 9 April 1998, the representative of Denmark introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.24, sponsored by Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine. Andorra, Belgium, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Iceland, the Netherlands and Peru subsequently joined the sponsors.

16. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Cuba, Denmark and France.

17. The second preambular paragraph, and operative paragraphs 2 and 4 of the draft resolution were orally revised by the representative of Denmark.

18. In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications 3/ of the draft resolution.

19. At the 39th meeting, on 9 April 1998, the second preambular paragraph was further orally revised by the representative of Denmark.

20. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Cuba and Denmark.

21. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Cuba and the United States of America.

22. A statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by the representative of Japan.

23. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/20.

Protection of the heritage of indigenous people

24. At its 38th meeting, on 9 April 1998, the Commission considered draft decision 2 recommended by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for adoption by the Commission (see E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50, chap. I).

25. The draft decision was orally amended by the representative of Brazil by deleting the letter "s" from the word "peoples".

26. Statements in connection with the draft decision were made by the representatives of Brazil and Cuba.

27. In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications 1/ of the draft decision.

28. The draft decision, as orally amended, was adopted without a vote. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter II, section B, decision 1998/...

Permanent forum within the United Nations system for indigenous peoples

29. At its 39th meeting, on 9 April 1998, the Commission considered draft decision 1 recommended by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for adoption by the Commission (see E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50, chap. I).

30. Statements in connection with the draft decision were made by the representatives of Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Denmark and Mexico.

31. Under rule 65, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the representative of Canada moved that the Commission take no decision on draft decision 1 of the Sub-Commission. The motion was adopted without a vote.